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**Romania: Ceausescu Adopts a  
Harder Public Line Against International Terrorism**

Romanian President Ceausescu issued his harshest criticism to date against international terrorism during a late November speech in which he declared that Romania has "never confused the struggle for liberty and social progress with terrorism in any of its forms." Ceausescu added that Romania especially opposes state-sponsored terrorism. The Romanian leader has spoken out strongly against international terrorism in the past, but [ ] this speech appears to signal his firmest stance to date, possibly in response to recent terrorist threats against Romanian interests at home and abroad, [ ]

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Links to the Middle East

In the Soviet Bloc, Ceausescu has unique links to the Middle East. Romania is the only Warsaw pact member that has both full diplomatic relations with Israel and ties to Palestinian and radical Arab groups. Ceausescu openly supports the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), to which he has supplied arms and training. In addition, Ceausescu has a personal relationship with PLO leader Arafat and consults with him frequently, [ ] [ ] Romania also maintains contact with other Palestinian groups such as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and pursues good relations with, and sells arms to, such radical Middle Eastern states as Libya, Syria, Iraq and Iran. Ceausescu values relations with moderate Arab states as well and also maintains diplomatic relations with Lebanon and Egypt. [ ]

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[ ]

We have no evidence of Romanian ties to the radical Palestinian Abu Nidal Group, which does have relationships with several East European states that it uses to facilitate transit to and from terrorist operations. In fact, the group has condemned Ceausescu as an "imperialist traitor" for his contacts with Israel and regularly denounces him in its monthly magazine. [ ]

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### Security Considerations

Security is a paramount concern to Ceausescu personally, and Romania has a large internal security apparatus. Nevertheless, Romanian security forces were unprepared for the escalation in violence among competing Arab student factions in Romania in 1984 and 1985 and the recent upsurge in terrorist threats against Romanian interests.

- o In 1984, the Romanian security service was unable to prevent the assassination of a Jordanian diplomat in Bucharest. The assassination, which was carried out by a radical Palestinian student believed to be a member of the Abu Nidal Group, led to increased surveillance of Romania's large Arab student population.
- o In November 1986, Romania hosted an ill-fated meeting between Israeli ~~leftists~~ and low-level Fatah officials. The meeting ended early after Abu Nidal issued a threat to send hit teams to Romania to assassinate Arab participants.
- o Also in November, the Romanian Embassy in Beirut was the target of a rocket attack. Abu Nidal has claimed responsibility. [ ]

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